



erased

KET SANBE

2





C N T E N T S

- #7: Lost Time, February 1988
- #8: The Town Without Me, February 1988
- #9: The Beginning of Failure, February 1988
- #10: Christmas Tree, February 1988
- #11: Repeated Scams, February 1988
- #12: Birthday Party, March 1988



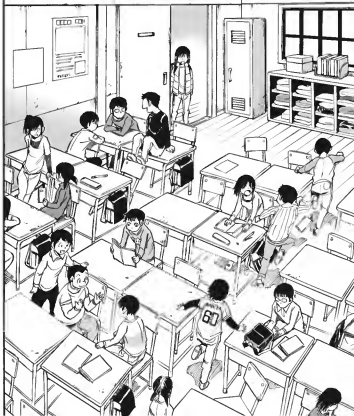
HOKEY CLUB FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



POSTER: THE WORLD'S ONLY CONCENTRATION BLACKBOARD! (FOLLOWING IS HIGUCHI, HELPER, NAGAMORI, TOSHIO)



#7: Lost Time, February 1988





...
RETURNED
TO 1988?

HAVE I
REALLY
...

IS THIS
REAL?

I'M
GOING TO
TAKE
ATTENDANCE
NOW.

BUT
WE'RE
TALKING
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO...!

REVV-
AL...?

AKA-
KURA.

SHU-
TAKI.

HERE

REARO

HERE

OR IS
IT A
DREAM?

OR A
DELU-
SION?

2月15日(月)
18時45分
教室

...EVEN
ALIVE
RIGHT
NOW?

AM
I...

IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST
MY LIFE
FLASHING
BEFORE
MY EYES
AGAIN,
RIGHT?

()と書いてました。
明日には持ってきて来ます

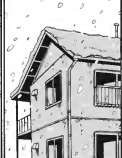


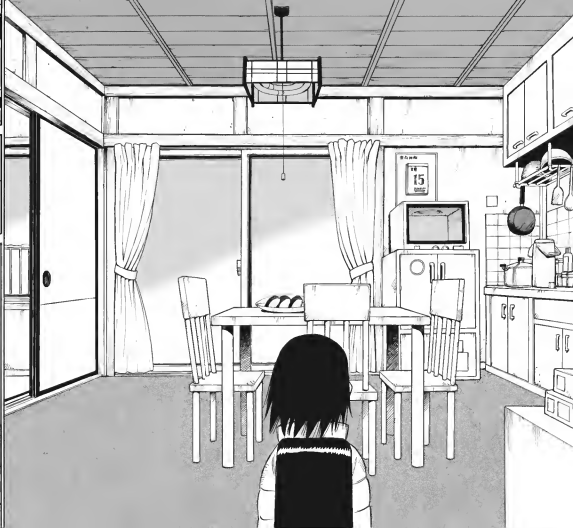
BOOK: FINAL FANTASY STRATEGY GUIDE













I WONDER
WHAT
SHE WAS
THINKING
WHEN SHE
DIED...

SATORU

うわ

うわ

うわ

うわ

うわ

うわ

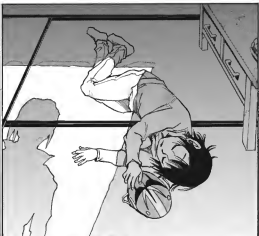
うわ

I'M HOME!

うわ

うわ

うわ









...BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE
YOU FORGOT
IT.

...WE FOUGHT
OVER YOU NOT
HAVING THE
RECORDER OR
SOMETHING...

THIS
MORN-
ING...



I'M...
...SORRY...
...MOM.

OF
COURSE I
FORGOT.
THAT WAS
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO...



AM I
CRYING
...?

HUH?

IT'S NOT
WORTH
CRYING
ABOUT.



...I
LOST.

IT'S
TIME
...

I LET
IT SLIP
BY.

I LIVED
THROUGH
IT
WITHOUT
TAKING
NOTE
OF IT.

I JUST
DIDN'T
REALIZE
IT THEN.

NO...

HAD I
FOR-
GOTTEN
?

WE HAD
MOMENTS
LIKE THIS
TOO.

WHAT A
HAPPY
TIME...

.....

"LOST"
...?



NOT
ON YOUR
LIFE.

...AND
NO
WAY...

THIS
IS A
CHANCE...

THIS IS
REVIVAL,
AFTER
ALL.

...AM I
GONNA
LOSE
THIS
TIME.





THIS IS
REALLY
GOOD...

MM?

MOM...



WHAT'S
THE MATTER,
SATORU?

THANK
YOU.



"I
WON'T
LOSE
IT."

YOU'RE
WELCOME.

THANK
YOU FOR
DINNER.

IT'S
THE
SAME...

...PEACEFUL
EXPRES-
SION SHE
HAD TODAY.

...I UNDER-
STOOD THE
PEACEFUL
EXPRESSION
ON MY MOTHER'S
FACE THE LAST
TIME I SAW HER
IN THE WORLD
OF EIGHTEEN
YEARS HENCE.

THE
MOMENT
I
DECIDED
THAT...

THE
SNOW
THAT FELL
ENDLESS-
LY LAST
NIGHT...

WINTER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
BGM: MATSUO MITSUNORI, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HOW MANY
MEMORIES
DOES MY
"PRESENT
SELF" HAVE
OF THIS TIME
PERIOD?



I'M A
NERVOUS
WRECK
HERE.



WHY
TO THIS
PERIOD
...!?

BUT
WHY DID
I HAVE
TO COME
BACK SO
FAR?

... YES. AM I
PREPARED
FOR THAT?

IS THIS
HOW
I CAN
SAVE
MOM?

AM I
SUPPOSED
TO FIX
THE NEXT
EIGHTEEN
YEARS?

AH...

THAT
QUESTION
WAS
CLEARED
UP RIGHT
AWAY.



...16...



THIS
REVIVAL'S
STARTING
POINT...



...THE
MONTH
BEFORE
...

...KAYO
HINA-
ZUKI
DISAP-
PEARS!







WAIT.

NO...

HIROMI WAS THE
NEXT
VICTIM
AFTER
HINAZUKI!

THAT'S
RIGHT.

HIROMI
...

IT'S
NOT
THAT
I LOVE
HER...

MORE
THAT
SHE'S
KIND OF
BEEN ON MY
MIND...

.....

I'M
GOING TO
"DIG DEEP"
INTO THE
KID-
NAPPINGS!

I'LL
SET
THINGS
UP...

...FOR YOU
TO MEET
HER AFTER
SCHOOL!

I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND.

ALL
RIGHT!
WE'LL
SAID!

WAAH!

HE AD-
MITTED
IT!

ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?

I SAID
THAT OUT
LOUD...

IS THAT
HOW YOU
GREET
SOME-
ONE!?

YOU CUT
RIGHT
TO THE
CHASE!

IS
THAT
HOW
YOU
GREET
SOME-
ONE!?

SHE
CUT
RIGHT
TO THE
CHASE!

...TO ME
OF ALL
PEOPLE?

WHY
WOULD
YOU SAY
THAT...

I'VE GOTTA
STEER
THIS IN THE
RIGHT
DIRECTION...

AFTER
ALL,
WE GO
HOME
THE
SAME
WAY.

I
THOUGHT
MAYBE WE
COULD BE
FRIENDS.

LIKE
THAT!?

↳
LOOK
...

THAT
KAZU...
I BET HE
TOLD HER
FLAT
OUT THAT
I HAD A
CRUSH
ON HER!

FUJI-
NUMA...

BUT I UNDER-
STAND
A LITTLE
BIT.

...YOU
AND
I...
...ARE
BOTH
FAKES.

WHAT'S SHE
TALKING
ABOUT...!?

WHAT
THE
HELL!?

SHE SAW
THAT...!?

EH!?

I SAW YOU
RUN HOME
YESTERDAY.

CAN
I ASK
YOU A QUES-
TION?

UH...
SURE.

.....?

IS YOUR
MOTHER
THAT
PRECIOUS
TO YOU?

YEAH!

.....

I...
WANNA BE
FRIENDS!

I WASN'T
DONE
TALKING!

HEY...

...HUH.

HINA-
ZUKI...!
WAIT!

SAKU
JINCE

SAKU
ORINCO
JINCE

...LOOKED
ME IN
THE EYE
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME, AND
SAID...

RIGHT
BEFORE
SHE LEFT,
SHE
TURNED
BACK...

...AND
VERY
SIMPLE.

...HINA-
ZUKI'S
WORDS
WERE
BOTH
GENU-
INE...

FROM
MY PER-
SPECTIVE
AS AN
ADULT...

FRIENDS
...?



WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE FOR MY SAKE?

...AND
ASKED
ME
THAT.



HINA-
ZUKI
LOOKED
IN MY
EYES...

...SHE
KNEW THE
TRAGEDY
THAT WOULD
OCCUR
SOMETIME
IN THE
WEEKS
AHEAD.



IT WAS
AS IF...

IS IT
POSSI-
BLE...

...BUT
SOMETHING
WAS
ALREADY
GOING ON
WITH HER
BEFORE
THEN.

"THE
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
STUDENT
SERIAL
KILLER."
HINAZUKI
WAS HIS
FIRST
VICTIM...



#8: The Town Without Me, February 1988



...BUT
WHAT
DID SHE
MEAN?

THAT'S
WHAT
HINAZUKI
SAID TO
ME...

FUDNURA...
YOU AND I ARE
BOTH FAKES.

TRUE
...

IT'S
LIKE I'M
WALKING
IN THE
DARK...

I'M SURE
SHE DIDN'T SEE
THROUGH TO
THE ADULT ME,
POSING AS MY
CHILDHOOD SELF
FOR THE LAST
COUPLE OF DAYS.

BOARD, FEBRUARY 17

I DID IT SO
I COULD FIT
IN WITH THIS
NARROW
MICROCOSM.

TO GET
ALONG
WELL WITH
MOM, MY
FRIENDS,
AND
EVERYONE
ELSE
AROUND
ME.

WHY?

...BUT I WAS
THE SAME
WAY THE
FIRST TIME
AROUND IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

I PLAYED A
"VERSION"
OF MYSELF.







...BUT
I CAN'T
BE IM-
PATIENT
EITHER.

I DON'T
THINK
I HAVE
MUCH
TIME...

2月17日(木)

日直

野村
戸田
久保

WHEN DID
HINAZUKI
DISAP-
PEAR?

BOARD: FEBRUARY 17 (WEDNESDAY), HELPER: TOSHI, NOMURA

IF I
MAKE THE
WRONG
MOVE, IT'LL
BLOW THE
WHOLE
THING...

SHE HAS
TO TELL ME
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT,
BUT WE'RE
NOT CLOSE
ENOUGH
FOR THAT
YET.

I NEED TO
TALK TO
HINAZUKI
MORE...

HUH?
DIDN'T
YOU...

...JUST BUY
McGREGOR
GLOVES?

RIGHT
...

LET'S
GO,
GUYS.

YEAH!

OH!

WHY AM I
NOT WEARING
GLOVES IN
THE MIDDLE OF
WINTER...?

NOW
THAT HE
MENTIONS
IT, I DID
HAVE
THOSE.
AH ...

SATORU,
LET'S GO.



AH...

MAYBE
AT THE
HIDEOUT?

OH.

MAYBE I
LEFT THEM
SOME-
WHERE...?



THE
HIDEOUT...



WE ALREADY
DECIDED NOT
TO GO WHEN
IT SNOWS
BECAUSE WE'D
LEAVE FOOT-
PRINTS BEHIND,
REMEMBER?

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

YOU GUYS
WANNA
STOP BY
THERE?



.....



P...

...DID
WE...?



SHIRITSU MI YUME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





N-NO, I
HAVEN'T.

...HAVE YOU
READ THE
STUDENT
ANTHOLOGY?

HUH?

...?

YEAH, WELL
...
...I GUESS
YOU WOULDN'T
...

STU-
DENT
ANTHOLO-
GY?

BY THE WAY, SATORU
... I SEE.
... RECENTLY...

...!

READ IT
WHEN YOU
GET A
CHANCE.

...BUT IT'S
ACTUALLY
PRETTY
INTERESTING.

SEE
YOU.

WELL
...
...SEE
YOU TOMOR-
ROW!

WHAT
WAS
KENYA
TALKING
ABOUT?

STU-
DENT
ANTHOL-
OGY?

SCENE: NAGATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 5TH YEAR CLASS 4 STUDENT ANTHOLOGY BIG WAVE, SMALL WAVE

美琴山学校 5年4組
文集
大波小波
1987.11

HERE
IT IS.

IN MINT
CONDI-
TION AND
NEVER
OPENED...

BOOK
DAMAGED

BOOK
DAMAGED

BOOK
DAMAGED

BOOK
DAMAGED

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BOOK
DAMAGED

...WAS
HINTING
THAT
EITHER
MY OR
HINA-
ZUKI'S
ESSAY...

...WAS
INTER-
ESTING.

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

OH!
OH!

I THINK
KENYA...

大波小波
1987.11



**"The
Town
Without
Me"
by Kayo
Hinazuki.**

舞月ない街
加代

...big
enough
to go
some-
where
by
myself...

When
I get
bigger...

I want
to go to
on island
that
has no
people.

I want to
go to a
faraway
island.

...I
want to
go to
a land
that's
for
away.

...no
Mom
on that
island.

...no
teach-
ers...

...no
class-
mates
...

...no
chil-
dren...

There
are no
adults
...

I want to
go to an
island...
...that
has no
pain or
sadness.



...swim
in the sea
when I
want to
swim...

...I can
climb
a tree
when I
want to
climb...

On that
island
...

...and
sleep
when I
want to
sleep.



Mom
eats,
as if
nothing
has
changed.

Adults
go to
work,
as if
nothing
has
changed.

Kids
go to
school,
as if
nothing
has
changed.

On the
island, I
think about
the town
that I left
behind.



...I feel
a sense of
relief.

When
I think
about
the town
without
me...

I want to go far, far away.







DO YOU
HAVE A
GIRLFRIEND?

SATORU
...
ARE YOU
AWAKE?

FOUR
...

GULP...



ARE YOU
SLEEP-
ING...?

OH...

YOUKAI
...



WHAT DID
I WRITE
ABOUT
AGAIN? I
FORGOT
TO TAKE A
LOOK...

...THE
GAZE
OF HER
ALL-
SEEING
EYE.

I NEVER
SHOWED
MOM THE
ANTHOLOGY
BECAUSE I
COULDN'T
STAND...

I JUST
REMEM-
BERED
SOME-
THING.

AH
WELL.
I CAN
READ IT
TOMOR-
ROW.



BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB WARS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



I KNEW
WHERE
HINAZUKI
WOULD BE.



I DIDN'T
HAVE TO
RUN.

...SO SHE
HUNG OUT
AT THAT
PARK UNTIL
IT GOT
DARK.

...AND
SHE
DIDN'T
WANT
TO GO
HOME...



I
SUSPECTED
HER
MOTHER
WAS
ABUSING
HER...

...SHE
WAS
WEIRD
BE-
FORE?



DID I
THINK...



...FUJI-
NUMA...



HINA-
ZUKI!



I TOLD
YOU, I
WANNA BE
FRIENDS.



THAT'S
MY LINE.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



YIKES!
IT'S
HARD
FOR
ME TO
HANDLE
THIS
TYPE...

I WAS
OBVIOUSLY
KIDDING.

ALTHOUGH,
I CAN'T KILL
ANYBODY...

PRETEND-
ING TO BE
WORRIED...

PRE-
TENDING
TO BE
NICE...

PRE-
TENDING
TO SMILE...

!

FUJI-
NUMA...
...YOU'RE
PRETEND-
ING,
AREN'T
YOU?

...BUT
I CAN'T
SEE YOU,
FUJINUMA.

...I'M NOT
ONE TO
TALK...

...AND...

I DON'T
THINK THAT'S
A BAD THING
ESPECIALLY...

BUT I'M
SOCALLY
INEPT, SO
WHEN I
THOUGHT...

I WANT
TO HAVE
FRIENDS.

I WANT
PEOPLE
TO LIKE
ME.

... "WHAT
CAN I DO
TO HELP
MYSELF?"
...

I THINK
YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'M "PER-
FORMING."



...I'LL
TRY LIKING
EVERYONE!"

...THE
ANSWER
I GOT
WAS...



THAT MADE
IT A LITTLE
EASIER TO
PUT ON THE
ACT...



...IT
FEELS
LIKE...

...IT'LL
BECOME
"REAL"
SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE
LINE.



WHEN I'M PER-
FORMING...

YEAH.

THAT'S IT...!!



HINA-
ZUKI...
...WOULD
YOU
ACCEPT
THIS?

BUT A TEN-
YEAR-OLD
GIRL JUST
ISN'T THAT
STRONG.

THERE'LL
BE A LOT
OF OTHER
PEOPLE,
RIGHT?

Y-YOU'RE
INVITING
ME?

I WANT
YOU TO
COME.

お誕生日会
招待状


I'M
HAVING A
BIRTHDAY
PARTY.

CARD: BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION

I DECIDED
TO GIVE YOU
THE FIRST
INVITATION...

I
DON'T
KNOW
YET.

...BE
ALONE
IN THIS
PARK.

I WON'T
LET HINA-
ZUKI...

ANYWAY,
I'LL TRY
TO PUT
IT INTO
WORDS...

IS THERE
REALLY
A HAPPY
ENDING
FOR ME?

IS THERE
REALLY
ANYTHING
THE "ME" OF
THIS TIME
PERIOD
CAN DO?

WILL I EVER
BECOME A
PERSON
THAT I WANT
TO BE?

I...

...WANT
TO
CHANGE
THE
FUTURE.



WHEN I'M PERFORMING, IT FEELS LIKE IT'LL
BECOME "REAL" SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.

I'M
SURE THE
SCORNFUL
WORDS
APPLIED
TO HER TOO,
AND SHE
KNEW IT...

WHEN
MINAZUKI
SAID
THOSE
SAME
WORDS
TO ME
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO...

...IT FELT
LIKE A COLD,
PARTING
SHOT THAT
SPEARED
ME IN THE
CHEST.

BUT
THIS
TIME...

...IT FELT
LIKE A
POSITIVE
AFFIRMA-
TION...

...AND
IT
TOUCHED
ME.





THE WAY
HINAZUKI
IS NOW
ISN'T THE
WAY SHE
SHOULD
REALLY
BE...

...BUT
"PER-
FORMING"
REALLY
ISN'T THE
ANSWER
TO EVERY-
THING.

THIS IS
THE POT
CALLING
THE
KETTLE
BLACK...



BH?

....

IT'S ON
MARCH
2.

I WANT
TO FREE
HINAZUKI
FROM
HAVING TO
PUT ON AN
ACT.



...WON'T
YOU?

YOU WILL
COME...

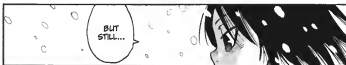


...?

SURE.

.....







...DIDN'T
HAVE
GLOVES
EITHER...

SHE...



...WAS THE
LAST PLACE
HINAZUKI
WAS SEEN
EIGHTEEN
YEARS AGO.

THAT
WAS IN
MARCH
1988.

THIS
PARK...

WHAT
DAY IN
MARCH
WAS IT?

CAN I
NARROW
DOWN THE
DAY SHE
DISAP-
PEARED?

ONE
DAY, SHE
STOPPED
COMING TO
SCHOOL...
HER
BODY WAS
FOUND
AFTER THE
SNOW
MELTED...

I REMEMBER
THINKING THAT
HIDOMI'S AGE
MUST HAVE
BEEN A MISPRINT
BECAUSE HE
WAS MURDERED
IN JUNE...



THAT'S
IT...!

IN THAT
BOOK, THE
AGES OF
THE THREE
VICTIMS ARE
ALL LISTED
AS TEN.

**Kayo
Hinazuki
(10)**

BOOK: NIPPON—THE MOST SHOCKING CRIMES OF THE SHOWA ERA

...BUT SHE
DISAPPEARED
(AND WAS
PROBABLY
MURDERED)
BEFORE HER
BIRTHDAY!



IF HINA-
ZUKI'S
AGE
LISTING
ISN'T A
MIS-
PRINT...
...HER
BIRTHDAY
MUST
BE IN
MARCH...

I'LL ASK
HINAZUKI
ABOUT IT
TOMOR-
ROW.



THAT
HAS TO
BE A
HINT.

SCHEDULE

HURS	FRI	SAT
JAPANESE	MATH	JAPANESE
MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
HOME EC.	JAPANESE	P.E.
GOO EV	MUSIC	KARAOKE
P.E.	ETHICS	
	CLUB	

NOON
DINNER

NOON
DINNER

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NOON
DINNER

NOON
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BANNER ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1985 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



SHUT UP
ALREADY...

HAMADA,
DO YOUR
BEST!

HA-
MADA-
KUN!

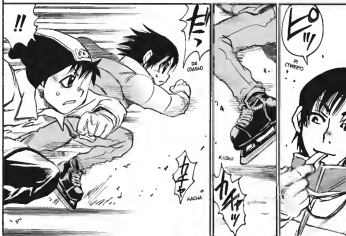
GO, ICE
HOCKEY
TEAM!

...WILL
GET THE
FASTEST
TIME.

WELL,
I'M SURE
EITHER
HAMADA
OR
KENYA...

I
GUESS.







...BUT
I AM
CONFIDENT
IN MY
SPRINTING.

RAH!

WAH!

WAH!

RAH!

TO BE
HONEST,
I'M NOT
CONFIDENT
IN MY
STAMINA
...

RAH!



HE'S A
TEN-YEAR-
OLD-OR-
SO KID.
(WELL,
I AM TOO,
PHYSICAL-
LY...)

I'M
TWENTY-
NINE
YEARS
OLD.

STILL...

...IS IT
OKAY IF
I WIN?



HE
SHOULD
BE THE
WINNER.

HAMADA
GOES
THROUGH
HARD
TRAINING
EVERY DAY.



WOULD
VICTORY
HAVE ANY
MEANING
FOR ME?

WAH!

WAH!

WAH!



NO
OSAKADA







BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1988 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS









ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



NOTEBOOK: FIFTH YEAR, CLASS 4 / TEACHER: GARY KESANO





WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
SATORU?

YASHI-
RO...

...SEN-
SEI...



IS IT
ABOUT
KAYO?

HE'S
QUICK
ON THE
UPTAKE...

HEH...



SHIT...

U-
UM...



I
WOULDN'T
SAY
THAT...

SATORU,
IT SEEMS
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
FRIENDLY
WITH KAYO
LATELY.

SO HE'S
BEEN
WATCH-
ING...

I
SEE...

YEAH...

IF
YASHIRO
GIVES
ME THE
INFO,
IT'S
ALL THE
SAME
TO ME.

I
WANTED
TO LOOK
UP HER
BIRTH-
DAY.

I'M
SORRY.

I'LL
PLAY
ALONG.



ROSTER: KAYO HINAZUKI, FEMALE, MARCH 2

30	雛月加代	女	3月2日生	AH!
31	雛月加代	女	3月2日生	



X-DAY IS MARCH 1...!

IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO CELEBRATE IT WITH HER WITHOUT DWELLING ON IT.

...SO I SUSPECT IT WAS HARD FOR HER TO SAY THAT YOU SHARE THE SAME BIRTHDAY.

WELL...

...KAYO IS PRETTY SHY...

IT'S IMPORTANT TO DO YOUR BEST IN EVERYTHING.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU WITH KAYO TOO.

SATORU ...

THAT WAS A CLOSE RACE TODAY...

WELL... I'LL BE OFF...

THANKS, SENSEI!

HE MAY COME IN HANDY.

YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO ME FOR ADVICE.

I WILL!

BAKU YASHIRO... HE'S ABOUT MY AGE IN THIS TIME PERIOD...
...AND HE'S GOT A SHARP, OBSERVANT EYE.





...GLOVES...









...KAYO.

ANSWER
HIM...

I
FELL...

I WAS
UNABLE
TO FIND
THE
WORDS...

...TO
RESPOND
TO HINA-
ZUKI'S
SAD LIE.

AND
THOSE
EYES...

...DID
NOT
TURN
MY
WAY.

...I
WAS
AT A
LOSS
FOR
WORDS.

#9 END



PAGE 122



#10: Christmas Tree, February 1988







...BUT IT
HASN'T BEEN
ADDRESSED
YET.

...I FIRST
SUSPECTED
KAYO WAS
BEING
ABUSED
LAST MAY...

TO BE
HONEST...

WELL,
I SUPPOSE
THAT'S THE
WAY WITH
MOST
PHYSICALLY
ABUSIVE
PARENTS...

...CRAFTY
HID THE
MARKS.

YOU SEE,
KAYO'S
MOTHER...

IT
HASN'T
BEEN AD-
DRESSED
...?

SO HE
REALIZED
SOON
AFTER
BECOM-
ING OUR
CLASS'S
TEACHER.

AS OF
LAST
MONTH,
THEY'VE
MADE
THREE
VISITS...

...SO
IT TOOK
OVER THREE
MONTHS
BEFORE
PEOPLE FROM
THE CENTER
FIRST CAME
TO PAY A
VISIT.

THAT
REPRE-
SENTATIVE
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
ELSE...

THERE'S
ONLY A
REPRESENTA-
TIVE AT CITY
HALL WHO
WILL MAKE
THE CALL TO
THE WELFARE
CENTER IN
SAPPORO.

...BUT
OUR CITY
DOESN'T
HAVE A
PROPER
WELFARE
CENTER.

I
CONTACTED
THE
CHILDREN'S
WELFARE
CENTER...

THEN
THEY'RE
USE-
LESS.
WHAT
THE...?

THEN
THEY'RE
USELESS.
WHAT THE
HELL?

I SAID
THAT
OUT
LOUD.

YES, I
AGREE.

...SO
THE CENTER
HASN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO CONDUCT AN
INTERVIEW
YET.

...BECAUSE
SHE AND
KAYO WERE
OUT OF THE
HOUSE EACH
TIME...

...BUT
KAYO'S
MOTHER
EITHER
HAS GOOD
INSTINCTS
OR GOOD
LUCK...



HURRY
UP,
DAMMIT!

YASHIRO
MUST BE
WAITING
FOR SPRING
BREAK
TO TAKE
ACTION.

AT
LEAST
NOT
THIS
MONTH.

HE WON'T
PULL THE
TRIGGER.

I'VE ALSO
HEARD THAT
IT TAKES TIME
FOR VICTIMS
OF ABUSE TO
UNDERSTAND
THAT IT'S NOT
THEIR FAULT.

I SAW
THAT FOR
MYSELF
ON
SATUR-
DAY.

I
FELL.

THEY'RE
MADE TO
THINK THEY
DESERVE
THE ABUSE
FOR BEING
"BAD."

I'VE HEARD
THAT CHILDREN
WHO ARE
PHYSICALLY
ABUSED BY A
PARENT TEND
TO COVER
FOR THEM...

BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB WAS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO...?

...BUT
MY
WALKING
INTO HER
YARD
THAT
DAY,
SEEING
WHAT I
SAW...

I NEED
TO PATCH
THINGS
UP WITH
HINAZUKI...

...HAS
ONLY
ADDED
TO HER
TROUB-
LES.

昭和63年
アイスホッケー部



I LOST SIGHT OF HER...

H-HUH?

MYSTIC CHANGING

MYSTIC

I LOST SIGHT OF HER...

H-HUH?

MYSTIC CHANGING

MYSTIC

I LOST SIGHT OF HER...

H-HUH?

MYSTO CHANGED

I LOST SIGHT OF HER...

H-HUH?

MYSTIC CHANGING

MYSTIC

I LOST SIGHT OF HER...

H-HUH?

MYSTO CHANGED

...I
WOULD
NEVER
LET
HER BE
ALONE
...

EVEN
THOUGH I
DECIDED...



HEE.



...UNTIL
HER
MOTHER
LEAVES
FOR
WORK
AROUND
SIX.

I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
STAY
OUT-
SIDE...



...
WHERE
ARE
YOU...?

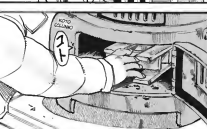
HINA-
ZUKI...







BOARD: FEBRUARY 29 (TUESDAY), MELPHIS: SATOBU/ FUCHINAMI





23
日(火)

日直 藤沼悟

雛月加代

GOOD
MORN-
ING...

...HINA-
ZUKI.

BOARD: FEBRUARY 23 (TUESDAY), AFTERNOON; SATURU FUKUNAGA, KATO ANNAKO

...GOOD
MORNING.



☆給食費☆

WE'RE
COLLECT-
ING LUNCH
MONEY!

IF YOU
FORGOT
IT TODAY,
BRING IT
TOMOR-
ROW!

BOARD: LUNCH MONEY



IT'S
GONE
...!

.....!



TWENTY-
NINE YEARS
OLD, AND
I'VE GOTTEN
MYSELF
INVOLVED
IN AN
INCIDENT LIKE
THIS.....?

THE
LUNCH
MONEY
IS
GONE!



WHAT IS IT,
SATORU?

SEN-
SEL...



...SO
IT MUST
HAVE
BEEN
STOLEN.

I KNOW
I DIDN'T
GIVE IT
TO HINA-
ZUKI...



AND I
SUSPECT
HINAZUKI-
SAN!



EXCUSE
ME!

NOT
GONE!

I THINK
SOMEBODY
MUST HAVE
STOLEN IT!



EVERYONE'S
LUNCH
MONEY IS
GONE.....

ALL I
CAN DO
IS LAY
IT OUT
LIKE
THIS...





HERE
IT IS.



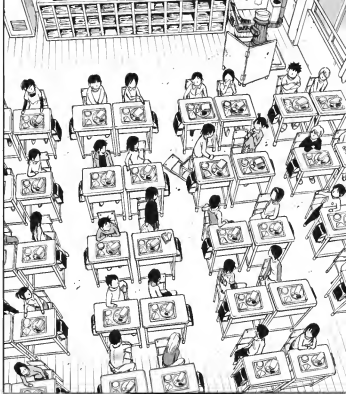
S...

I DON'T
CARE IF
SHE'S
POOR OR
HUNGRY!

HINAZUKI
WOULD
NEVER
STEAL
FROM
ANYBODY!!

SEE?
IN HER
COAT...IT
SHOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
THERE.....

あ
SHUT
UP!!





AAH
...

ASH
...



YOU
PROBABLY
DID IT...



NH...

GH!

...COULD'VE
TAKEN IT
FROM HIS
DESK AND
PLANTED
IT.

ANYONE
SITTING
CLOSE
ENOUGH TO
SATORU...

LISTEN.



DOH

DOH
(GROAN)



MISATO
...

...SATORU
...

...THAT'S
THE END OF
IT, OKAY?
LET'S HAVE
LUNCH!

KAYO IS
ONE OF
THE HELPERS
TODAY, SO
THERE'S
NOTHING
UNUSUAL
ABOUT HER
HAVING THE
LUNCH
MONEY.



ALL
RIGHT
...

EVERY-
ONE!



...IT WAS
BEAUTIFUL...

...BUT...

SEE
WHAT?

AH...
SHE
LOOKED
AT ME.

WANNA
GO SEE
ONE
AFTER
THIS?

LIS-
TEN...

I RE-
MEM-
BER...

ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?

A
CHRISTMAS
TREE.

AH...





I ALWAYS
USED TO
SKI AND
BOBBLED
IN THIS
AREA.

A FEW
OF MY
FRIENDS
HAVE
BROKEN
A LEG UP
HERE.

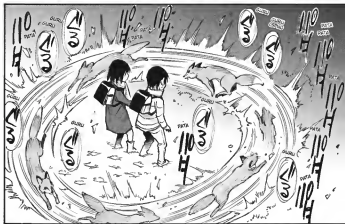


I EVEN
SAW RED
FOXES
ONCE...



THERE!









ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?

A
CHRISTMAS
TREE!



...IT'S
FEBRUARY.

I SAID,
"LET'S
COME BACK
IN THE
SUMMER..."

"...TO
SEE THIS
CHRIST-
MAS
TREE
AGAIN."

"ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?"

...

...KAYO
REPLIED,
LOOKING
INTO MY
EYES.

EVER SINCE
I WAS IN
SECOND OR
THIRD GRADE,
I WOULD
OFTEN TAKE
THE BUS
THERE BY
MYSELF.

THE
SCIENCE
CENTER
WAS MY
FAVORITE
PLACE.



...AND EVEN
A STEAM
LOCOMOTIVE
ON DISPLAY...



THERE
WAS A
LIBRARY
RIGHT
NEXT
DOOR...

I LIKED THAT
THERE WERE
PERIODS OF
TIME WHEN
YOU COULD
SEE NOBODY
ELSE.

...BUT
WHAT
I
LIKED
MOST
OF
ALL...
...WAS
THE QUIET
BUILDING
ITSELF,
WITH ITS
HIGH
CEILING
(FOR A KID
ANYWAY).



I THINK
IT'S THAT I
LIKED THE
FEELING OF
HAVING
THIS PLACE
ALL TO
MYSELF.

IT'S NOT
THAT I
ENJOYED
BEING ALL
ALONE.



MY FAVORITE
EXHIBIT OF ALL
WAS RIGHT
INSIDE THE
ENTRANCE.



...IT
WOULDN'T
CHANGE.

IT WOULD
ALWAYS...

...BE
STANDING
THERE,
AS IF
WELCOM-
ING
ME IN.

I THOUGHT
OF IT AS A
KIND OF
"FRIEND"

WHETHER I
WAS HAPPY
OR SAD
WHETHER
THE DAY WAS
RAINY OR
SUNNY...

#11: Repeated Scene, February 1988





HIROBLIM!
I YOU...!!
HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
IN A
WHILE!

WHOA!

MY NEW
YEAR'S
MONEY
FROM
TWENTY...
THAT
IS, TWO
YEARS
AGO.

AH...
HERE
IT IS.

ENVELOPE: NEW YEAR'S MONEY

ALTHOUGH...
I HOPE THIS
IS ENOUGH...

I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU HAD
8,000 YEN
TUCKED
AWAY...

ANYWAY,
I'M
PROUD
OF YOU,
PAST
SELF!

I WANT
TO GO
OUT NEXT
SATUR-
DAY...

MM?

HEY,
MOM...

KACHA

I-IT'S
NOT
LIKE
THAT.

YIKES!

ON A
DATE?

THANK
YOU
FOR THE
MEAL!





BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1999 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



BURRO FEBRUARY 25









SHOULD
I TELL HER,
"I KIND OF TOLD
THEM I HAD A
DATE WITH YOU
ON SATURDAY,
SO I COULDN'T
HANG OUT"?

ASH...
NO...

FUJII-
NUMA
...

DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?

...I
SAID
THAT
OUT
LOUD.

!

I KIND OF
TOLD THEM I
HAD A DATE
WITH YOU ON
SATURDAY, SO
I COULDN'T
HANG OUT.

...AND AWAY
FROM HER
MOM'S
"SATURDAY
VIOLENCE."

THAT'S
RIGHT...
I'M
GONNA
DRAG
HER OUT
OF THE
HOUSE...



BESIDES,
KAYO
HELPS ME AT
HOME ON
SATURDAYS.

YOU CAN
LEARN AT
HOME.

HELPS
YOU DO
WHAT?

HELPS
YOU
BLOW OFF
STEAM!?

"HELPS"
...?

WHY DO
YOU WANT
HINAZUKI
TO STAY
HOME SO
BADLY!?

DON'T
STICK YOUR
NOSE INTO
ANOTHER
FAMILY'S
BUSINESS.

I
DON'T
NEED
YOUR
HELP,
YOUNG
MAN.

I DON'T
HAVE TO
EXPLAIN
MYSELF TO
YOU.

TO BEGIN
WITH, YOU'RE
CHILDREN.

...WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO SAY?

IF SOMETHING
HAPPENED, WHO
DO YOU THINK
WOULD HAVE TO
TAKE RESPONSIB-
ILITY?

...THOU-
SANDS OF
REASONS
IF I HAVE
TO.

I CAN
COME
UP WITH...

HOW
ABOUT
IF I HELP
YOU TOO
THAT
DAY?
AND
AFTER
THAT, WE
CAN GO
OUT.



...AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S SHOOTING ME DOWN.
DAMN IT!

SHE CAN "COME UP WITH" REASONS?
SHE KNOWS WHY I WANNA TAKE HINAZUKU AWAY...



...IS MY BUSINESS.
WHAT I THINK ABOUT MY DAUGHTER...

A LITTLE SHIT LIKE YOU, GOING AROUND TALKING LIKE AN ADULT...

DON'T YOU TRUST YOUR OWN DAUGHTER?



WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF IT?

YOU WANT TO TAKE MY SURLY DAUGHTER SOMEWHERE...?

WHAT'S WITH YOU?



...THERE ARE NO GAINS OR LOSSES!

WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING A FRIEND...

...FROM
WHAT...?

SAVING
KAYO...

"SAV-
ING"...?

I MEANT
TO TIPTOE
AROUND
IT...

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
HINTED
AT HER
ABUSE.

CRAP.

DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
SOME
PRINCE ON
A WHITE
HORSE?

253

KOJUN
04703

...YOU
PER-
VERTED
BRATS!

GET
YOUR
MINDS
OUT
OF THE
GUTTER
...

—KAYO! WHAT
DO YOU
THINK...

DO YOU
WANT TO
GO WITH
THIS KID?



STOP IT,
MS. HINAZUKI.

.....!

MA...!



...BUT
THERE'S NO
EXCUSE FOR
CALLING
CHILDREN
"PERVERTED
BRATS."

I DIDN'T
INTEND TO
INTERFERE
AS LONG AS
YOU STAYED
REASON-
ABLE...



I'D SAY
HALF OF
IT IS MY
CONCERN.

TH-THIS
DOESN'T
CONCERN
YOU...

F-FUJI-
NUMA...
SA...



AFTER
ALL,
WE'RE
THEIR
PARENTS.

...SO
LET'S
HELP
THEM
ALONG.

THE KIDS
ARE BEING
ENTHUSIASTIC
ABOUT
SOMETHING...



I THINK
WE'D FIND
WE HAVE
A LOT IN
COMMON...

WHY
DON'T YOU
DROP BY
SOMETIME,
JUST TO
TALK?

DON'T
YOU THINK
MY HOUSE-
HOLD AND
YOURS ARE
SIMILAR,
HINAZUKI-
SAN?



I'M
KIDDING,
OBTI-
OUSLY...

I...

YOU
FOLLOWED
US/?

...BUT
BETWEEN THE
CONVERSATION
AND SEEING
THAT MOTHER,
I CAN TAKE A
GUESS.

NO...

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON
OVER THERE,
MOM?

SHE DIDN'T
USED TO
WORK FOR
A TV NEWS
DEPARTMENT
FOR NOTHING...

THE
MOTHER
CARES
ABOUT
KEEPING UP
APPEAR-
ANCES.

I WAS
SURPRISED
THAT
GIRL WAS
WEARING
SUCH NICE
CLOTHES.

WELL,
EVERY-
THING
SHOULD
BE OKAY
FOR
TODAY
ANYWAY.

OF
COURSE
NOT!

DON'T
ABANDON
HER NOW.

...ISN'T
SHE?

KAYO-
CHAN IS
A CUTE
GIRL...

AH!

WHAT AM
I EMBAR-
RASSED
ABOUT? I'M
TWENTY-
NINE YEARS
OLD!

FEBRU-
ARY 27,
SATUR-
DAY.

IT'S A
CLEAR
DAY.



IT SEEMS
HER MOTHER
HAS REFRAINED
FROM
PHYSICALLY
ABUSING HER
FOR THE PAST
SEVERAL DAYS.



HINAZUKI
AND I
HAVE COME
TO THE
SCIENCE
CENTER.

OF COURSE,
THAT PART
ABOUT A
"LEARNING
EXPERIENCE"
WAS JUST A
PRETEXT.

ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?



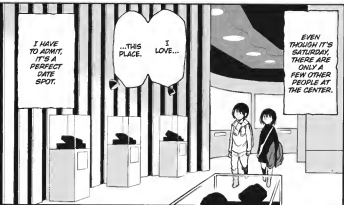
HE'S MY
FRIEND.

I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
IT'S A
PERFECT
DATE
SPOT.

...THIS
PLACE.

I
LOVE...

EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
SATURDAY,
THERE ARE
ONLY A
FEW OTHER
PEOPLE AT
THE CENTER.



WHEN I SEE
SOMEBODY
ELSE, I HIDE
SOMETIMES...

ISN'T IT
EXCITING?

IT'S
LIKE WE
JUST SNUCK
IN!

THERE'S
HARDLY
ANYONE
HERE...

AH,
SHE'S NOT
SAYING,
"ARE YOU
AN IDIOT?"

.....





SHIN: PLANETARIUM

SCHEDULE: PROJECTION SHOWS, FIRST SHOWING, SECOND SHOWING, THIRD SHOWING





FUJI-
NUMA...

THIS
IS...

DID
YOU KNOW
I LIKED
THIS PLACE
TOO?

THANK
YOU FOR
INVITING
ME
TODAY.

DO PEOPLE
WHO WANT
TO MAKE
MANGA...

MAYBE
THAT'S WHY
I SUBCON-
SCIOUSLY
CHOSE THIS
PLACE...

I DID
KNOW
...

...!

...THIS
SAME
CONVER-
SATION
FROM
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO.

I RE-
MEM-
BER...

M-MAYBE
THERE IS
A CON-
NECTION.

...TEND
TO
COME
TO
PLACES
LIKE
THIS?

...TEND
TO
COME
TO
PLACES
LIKE
THIS?

DO PEOPLE
WHO WANT
TO MAKE
MANGA...

IT WAS
AROUND THE
SAME TIME...
HINAZUKI
WAS HOLDING
HER COAT...

IT'S
THE
SAME...

M-HOW DID
YOU KNOW
I WANT TO
DRAW
MANGA?

...ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT?

I CAME
HERE ALONE
THEN AND
RAN INTO
HINAZUKI BY
CHANCE...





THE
FUTURE
CAN BE
CHANGED.

BE-
LIEVE
IT...

I'VE
CHANGED
A LOT OF
THINGS
THROUGH MY
ACTIONS.



I THOUGHT THIS
WAS A GOOD
PLACE TO COME
WHEN YOU'RE
ALONE, BUT NOW
I KNOW IT CAN
BE FUN WHEN
YOU'RE WITH
SOMEONE TOO...

YEAH.

FOR SOME
REASON,
THE SCIENCE
CENTER HAS A
SOOTHING
EFFECT ON
ME...



I'M GLAD I
MUSTERED
UP THE
COURAGE
TO COME
HERE.

I'M GLAD I
MUSTERED
UP THE
COURAGE
TO INVITE
HER...

ME
TOO!

SATORU!

HINA-
ZUKI!

ARE WE
LATE OR
EARLY...?

SORRY
WE'RE
LATE.

HEY
THERE!

THE
THING I
HAD TO
DO...

...WRAPPED
UP EARLY.

RIGHT.

RIGHT,
HINA-
ZUKI?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

ARE WE
IN THE
WAY?

THERE,
SEE?
IT DID
CHANGE.

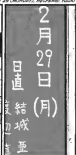
IT
SUDDENLY
BECAME
LIVELY...
...BUT
IT'S
STILL
A FUN
PLACE.

AH, LOOK!
SATORU
IS SUCH A
GENTLE-
MAN!



BANNER, ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1988 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

BUILDING: FEBRUARY 28 (MONDAY), HELLERS: YOUNG



I'M GONNA CHANGE IT...!



THAT WILL DEFINITELY CHANGE THE FUTURE!



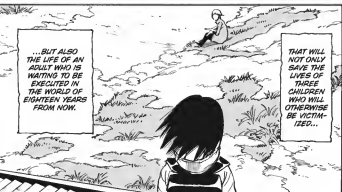
I'LL MAKE IT SO THAT THE MURDERS NEVER HAPPEN!



...THEN
THERE'LL
BE NO
KILLER...

...AND
NO
VIC-
TIMS.

IF I
PREVENT
THE
CRIMES...



...BUT ALSO
THE LIFE OF AN
ADULT WHO IS
WAITING TO BE
EXECUTED IN
THE WORLD OF
EIGHTEEN YEARS
FROM NOW.

THAT WILL
NOT ONLY
SAVE THE
LIVES OF
THREE
CHILDREN
WHO WILL
OTHERWISE
BE VICTIM-
IZED...





Jun Shiratori

*Present, May 2006:
Convicted death row prisoner*



Murdered two elementary school girls and one boy between March and June of 1988 in Hokkaido. Arrested September 1988. Stood trial the following year.

Has maintained his innocence since his first trial.



*1992: Received death penalty ruling in Sapporo courtroom. Appealed to a higher court.
1997: Appeal rejected by Sapporo appellate court.*

*2000: Supreme court dismisses final appeal.
Death penalty is upheld.*

#12: Birthday Party, March 1988

...THAT
YUUKI-
SAN...
IS
INNO-
CENT.

EVEN
SO, I
BELIEVE
THAT
JUN
SHIRA-
TORI...



HE'S
YOUNGER
THAN I AM
(INSIDE)
NOW.

YUUKI IS
TWENTY-
THREE
YEARS
OLD IN
THIS TIME
PERIOD.

IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'VE
MADE LOTS
OF FRIENDS.

YOUR DESIRE
TO HAVE FUN
WITH EVERYONE
GOT ACROSS.

IT'S
BECAUSE YOU
MUSTERED UP
THE COURAGE,
SATORU-
KUN.

NO, IT
ISN'T!

IT'S
THANKS
TO YOU,
YUUKI-
SAN.

YEAH.

HIS SOFTHEARTED
SOUL IS JUST LIKE
I REMEMBER. HE
REALLY IS A GOOD
PERSON...

AT THE TIME,
I ALWAYS SAW
HIM PLAYING
OUTSIDE IN THE
AFTERNOON,
SO I ASSUMED
HE WAS
UNEMPLOYED.

...FROM
FOUR IN THE
MORNING
TILL JUST
BEFORE
LUNCH,
WHEN THE
LAST OF THE
DELIVERIES
WERE MADE.

...THAT
YUUKI-
SAN HAD
WORKED
AT HIS
FATHER'S
BENTO
SHOP...

I FOUND
OUT
LATER...

NOW I CAN
TELL THAT YUKI-
SAN, A LIFELONG
LOCAL, IS MAKING
AN EFFORT TO
CURB HIS DIALECT
WHEN HE TALKS
TO ME.



...IS
SOME-
WHAT
DIFFER-
ENT
FROM
WHEN
I WAS
TEN.

NOW
THAT I'M
TWENTY-
NINE, MY
IMPRES-
SION OF
YUKI-
SAN...

...BUT I ALSO
THINK IT WAS
A WAY TO HIDE
HIS TRUE SELF
FROM ME, WHAT
HE WOULD
CONSIDER HIS
"WEAK SELF"...

HE
PROBABLY
KNEW
THAT...



WHEN I
WAS A KID, THE
WAY HE TALKED
GAVE HIM A
PERSUASIVE,
MATURE FEEL.

TELL ME ABOUT THE WAY HE TALKED.
DID YOU THINK HE WAS A GOOD PERSON RIGHT AWAY?

BOOKS: LOITA, STRAWBERRY PHOTO ALBUM, GIRLS' SCHOOL UNIFORMS PLEP GUIDE, BURY RAY, BURY RAY





SOMEONE
GAVE THEM
TO ME...

...AND I
COULDN'T
JUST
THROW
THEM
OUT...

U-
UM...



I WONDER IF
THE POLICE
WILL CONSIDER
THAT STUFF
"EVIDENCE"...

IT
DOESN'T
BOTHER
ME...

I THINK
THAT KIND
OF THING IS
NORMAL..

IT'S
OKAY.

DID HE EVER ASK YOU TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT SOMETHING
OR TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING IN A CERTAIN WAY?



I'VE
SORT OF
GOT PEOPLE
WAITING
FOR ME...

REALLY?

HUH?

...I'D
BETTER
GET
GOING.

WELL...

...YOU
SEEM MORE
GROWN-UP.

SATORU-
KUN...
SOMEHOW...

MAYBE.

MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE
I'VE MADE
FRIENDS.

GO
FIGURE.

...REALLY?

SURE.

STOP
BY ANY-
TIME.

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU FOR
LETTING
ME COME
OVER.

SIGN: SATORU!

I CAN'T
EVEN IMAGINE
THAT TIMID
YOUNG MAN
COMMITTING
MURDER.

AH...
OKAY.

COME
OVER
HERE AND
HELP ME!

HEY,
JUN!

...THERE
WON'T
EVEN BE
ANY
SUSPECTS!

BUT IF
THOSE
MURDERS
NEVER
HAPPEN...

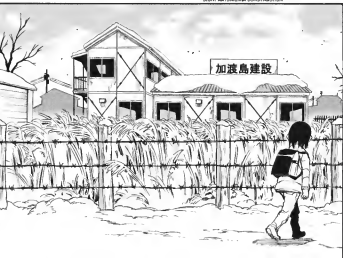


I
PROMISE...
I'LL...

YUKI-
SAN...
WAIT
FOR ME.



©2004 KATSUMASA KONISHI



加渡島建設

THIS IS
WHERE...

EP04: KATADZIMA CONSTRUCTION

THIS
PLACE
SURE
BRINGS
BACK
MEMO-
RIES...

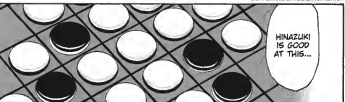
...TO
REMI-
NISCE!

...BOTH
GOOD AND
BAD, BUT
THIS IS NO
TIME...





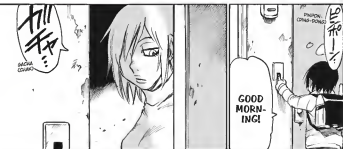
SHIRAKABA RECREATION CENTER



MARCH 1, 1988



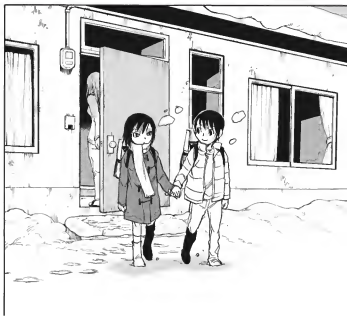
**THIS IS THE DAY HINAZUKI DISAPPEARED
EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.**



**BUT TODAY WILL BE
DIFFERENT...!**



HINAZUKI ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.





SIGN: TOKYO MUNICIPAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1988 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS





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...HINAZUKI
WAS
STANDING
ALONE IN
THIS PARK
LIKE
ALWAYS.

EIGH-
TEEN
YEARS
AGO
TODAY...



...WAS
A LITTLE
BEFORE
SIX P.M.

I
THINK
THE
TIME...





I CAN'T
REMEMBER
IF THEY
ACTUALLY
WERE
THERE.

...TO
PICK
UP THE
GLOVES
I MIGHT
HAVE
LEFT
BEHIND.

I WAS
HEADING
FOR THE
HIDEOUT
THEN...



...AND SAW
YUUKI-SAN
SITTING
THERE,
FACING
TOWARD
THE RIVER.

AFTER
LEAVING
THE
HIDEOUT,
I LOOKED
AT THE
BANK...

*SIX P.M., HUH? IT MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY DARK BY THEN.
CAN YOU PROVE IT WAS REALLY HIM?*



HINAZUKI
WAS
ALREADY
GONE.

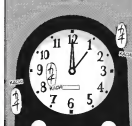
AFTER THAT,
I TOOK THE
SHORTEST
ROUTE HOME,
CUTTING
THROUGH
THE PARK.

DIDN'T HE HAVE A CAR OR MOTORBIKE? I'M SURE HE WOULD'VE
BEEN A LOT FASTER THAN SOMEBODY TRAVELING ON FOOT.









I DID
IT...!

...I DEFINITELY
CHANGED
HISTORY!

TODAY
(OR
YESTER-
DAY, I
GUESS)
...



MARCH 2, 1988



...IT WAS
FIVE
THOUSAND
YEN ON
THE NOSE
EIGHTEEN
YEARS
AGO TOO.

COME
TO
THINK
OF
IT...

OKAY.

THAT'S
EXACTLY
FIVE
THOUSAND
YEN.



SCEN: SUPERMARKET



I HAD
BEEN IN
SUCH HIGH
SPIRITS
THAT I
BLEW ALL
THE MONEY
I HAD



YOU
SPENT FIVE
THOUSAND
YEN ON
SANDWICH
FIXINGS?

INGREDIENTS: SLICED CHEESE, HAM, BREAD, BREAD

...BUT I
REMEMBER
HAVING A
GOOD TIME
MAKING
THEM.



FOR DAYS,
MOM AND
I HAD
NOTHING
BUT SAND-
WICHES
FOR
DINNER...





BANNER: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SATO-RUI-KUN AND KATO-CHAN / ATTACHED BUSH: HARRISSET



CAKE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATO-CHAN





AND SATORU
INSISTED ON
GETTING TWO
CAKES.



YOU
SUC-
CEED-
ED!

WELL....

...WE DID
WANT TO
SURPRISE
YOU A BIT.

DECORATIONS: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELEVEN YEARS OLD



I DIDN'T
HAVE TIME TO
FINISH YOUR
PRESENT...

I'M
SOR-
RY...

.....



GIVE IT
TO ME
LATER!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!

I ALMOST
HAD IT DONE
LAST NIGHT,
BUT I FELL
ASLEEP.



WERE YOU
WORKING
ON SOME-
THING?

.....



RIGHT!

SHIGA
CRAVETED

THIS IS IT,
EVERY-
ONE!

ALL
RIGHT!

YEAH!

IT SEEMS
I'VE BEEN
GETTING IN THE
WAY OF HER
PROGRESS
THESE PAST
SEVERAL DAYS.



AND
THEN...

HINAZUKI
AND I GOT
SEVERAL
PRESENTS
FROM
EVERYONE.

....MITTENS
FOR HER
BIRTHDAY.

HERE.

...I GAVE
HINAZUKI...

THANK
YOU.

EVERY-
ONE...

THANK
YOU,
FUU-
NUMA...

....I
WALKED
HINAZUKI
HOME.

YOU GO
AHEAD.

WE'LL
CLEAN UP
HERE.

AFTER
THE
PARTY
WOUND
DOWN
THAT
NIGHT...

I UNDER-ESTIMATED HOKKAIDO WINTER.

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?



IT...
IT'S COLD!

WE LIVE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, SO I MIS-CALCULATED AND WENT OUT WITHOUT A COAT.



...AND THE OTHERS... BECAME FRIENDS.

...I'M GLAD WE...

FUJINUMA...



HERE.

FUJINUMA COLLEGE



THAT'S A PROMISE.

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR PRESENT TOMORROW.

THANK YOU FOR TODAY.

GOOD NIGHT.



***I DID IT...!! I MADE IT THROUGH X-DAY
AND SPENT MY BIRTHDAY WITH HINAZUKI!!***



MY
EXHAUSTION
FROM
THE DAY
BEFORE
HAD
REACHED
ITS PEAK...

WHEN
I GOT
HOME,
EVERY-
ONE HAD
ALREADY
GONE.

...AND MY
TENSE
FEELINGS
RELAXED
ALL AT
ONCE.



...AND
SLEPT
LIKE A
LOG.

I COL-
LAPSED
THEN
AND
THERE...





SHIROKI WAZOKU MUNICIPAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BANNER: JOE HOCKEY CLUB 8888 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



GOOD MORNING!



I'M LATE ...!

CRAP ...



I GUESS ...

...KAYO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LATE.



S-S-SAFE...



OH.

SATORU, I WAS ABOUT TO MARK YOU AS TARDY.

JUST MAKE IT.



THE LAST
PROMISE
MADE
BETWEEN
ME AND
HINAZUKI...

...WAS
NEVER
FULFILLED.

STAFF

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Manami 18-years-old
Shunel Tnkagi
Zukku Ozaki
Kouji Kikuta

Keishi Kanesada

BOOK DESIGN
Yukio Hoshino
VOLARE Inc.

EDITOR
Tsunenori Matsumiya

STRANGE, EVERYDAY LIFE



13.4

IN HIS
COMMENT, HE'D
WRITTEN THAT
I'D ASSISTED
WITH "PART
FOUR," SO I
GOT HIS
PERMISSION
TO CHANGE
THAT TO
"PART THREE."

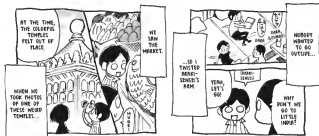
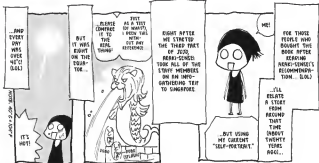


DURING
THAT TIME,
MY OWN
SERIES SAW
PUBLICATION
ON A
DIFFERENT
MAGAZINE!

ACTUALLY,
I SERVED
AS AN
ASSISTANT
ON JOTO
FROM
THE END
OF THE
SECOND
PART TO
THE
MIDDLE OF
THE FIFTH
PART

I SOLICITED
THE QUOTE FOR
THE BELLY BAND
FROM MY MENTOR,
HIROSHI BEAKI,
SO I THOUGHT I'D
TOUCH ON THAT.





REARI-SENSEI COMMENTS: "IT SEEMS I'M NOT A VERY ATTENTIVE PERSON. LOL!"

**WELL,
TO BE
HONEST,
I FELT
GREAT
RELIEF.
(LOL)**



**THANK
YOU!**



...THE HOTEL'S BATH WAS ALSO EXTREMELY RELAXING.

FAMILY BATH

RIGHT BEFORE THAT (IDENT MANUSCRIPT AT FOUR P.M.), IT WAS SUPER-PEARL-NE-CROWN (FINISHED DENSED THE AFTERNOON OF THE PREVIOUS DAY), SO...

BIG THANKS TO MY STAFF!

THE RECEPTION WAS A LOT OF FUN. SOME OF MY ASSISTANTS ALSO ATTENDED, MAKING IT A REALLY RELAXING AFTER.

OUR TABLE WAS THE VULGAR ONE (LOL)

IN LATE APRIL OF 2013, I WENT TO KANAGAWA FOR A FRIEND'S WEDDING.

AND NOW, FOR MY OWN SITUATION...

MY CAR HAD NOBODY THERE, BUT THE LAW REQUIRED DRIVING, SO I COULDN'T LEAVE TOWN, SO I SPENT A LEISURELY TIME SIGHTSEEING. (LOL)

...A FEELING THAT PROVED TO BE VALID WHEN WE WENT OUT FOR THE AFTER-PARTY AND FOUND ABOUT 20 CM. OF ACCUMULATED SNOW ON THE GROUND! (LOL)

THE SPORADIC SNOW MADE ME A LITTLE ANGRY...

NOTE: 20 CM. = 8 IN.

I'LL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST, SO THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THIS IS A SUDDEN CHANGE OF SUBJECT...

BUT HOW WAS THIS VOLUME OF DENSED?

SEE YOU AGAIN.

THAT'S BECOME A FOND, FUN MEMORY.

I DROPPED MY HAT TO THE "KAREN MAN" BEDROOM.

AFTER LUNCH I LEFT KANAGAWA, AND THE SNOW HAD ALREADY MELTED.

ARRIVED IN CHIBA AT SEVEN P.M.

Common Honorifics

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Currency Conversion

While conversion rates fluctuate daily, an easy estimate for Japanese yen conversion is ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 64

Yasushi: A term that encompasses all types of Japanese folk creatures, ghosts, and other supernatural entities. Sasori doesn't reference a specific *yasushi* here but implies (sarcastically) that his mother's ageless appearance is because she's some sort of supernatural being.

Hakuhou: Shou Hakuhou, a professional sumo wrestler from Mongolia. Hakuhou made his debut in 2001 and was elevated to the highest sumo rank, yokozuna, in 2007.

Ozeki rank: Second-highest sumo ranking, just under yokozuna. To attain this status, a *sekiwake*-ranked wrestler (third-highest tier) must generally win thirty-three matches over three consecutive tournaments winning a tournament, defeating higher-ranked wrestlers, and other factors may also contribute to promotion.

Miyabiyama: Tetsushi Miyabiyama, a sumo wrestler who debuted in 1998, attained the rank of ozeki and retired in 2013.

Page 70

Yusaku: "Yusaku" means "courage," a trait Jun Shiratori espoused so much that Sasori made it into his nickname.

Page 74

Tokuusatsu: Literally "special filming," this term generally applies to live-action, special effects-oriented TV shows and movies, particularly *kyouju* (giant monster) movies and superhero TV series such as *Kamen Rider* and *Super Sentai* (*Power Rangers*).

Page 123

Narashino: Small city in Western Chiba, less than twenty miles from Tokyo.

Page 127

Bicycle safety law: Although it's fairly common to see two people riding a single-seater bike with one person sitting sidesaddle on the bag rack, it is illegal and carries a potential fine of ¥20,000.

Page 140

Takoyaki: Popular "street snack" that originated in Osaka. Essentially a small fried ball of wheat-flour batter with a piece of boiled octopus inside.

Page 142

"Good work!": It's customary to "compliment" workers upon their return to the place of business after being out on the job. This also applies when an employee is leaving work before their coworkers.

Page 146

Era names: The Showa period lasted from 1926-1989, and the Heisei period began on January 8, 1989, the day after Emperor Hirohito's death. His son, Akihito, then ascended the throne as emperor.

Page 150

Statute of limitations: The statute of limitations for murder was an astonishing fifteen years in 2006, the setting of this story's "present" time period, but was abolished altogether in 2010.

Page 163

"This isn't Hokkaido!": This reaction is based on the assumptions of country vs. city living; in a rural area like Hokkaido, it might be presumed safe enough to leave one's front door unlocked.

Page 201

Classroom helpers: In many Japanese schools students take turns assisting with various classroom duties, such as trash removal, cleaning blackboards, collecting prizes, collecting lunch money, and so on.

Page 215

Hamburg steak: A fried meat patty formed from ground beef or pork and breadcrumbs.

Page 302

School lunches: Rather than eating lunch in a common cafeteria, in many elementary schools, student helpers are responsible for collecting the school lunch from the kitchens, bringing it back to their classrooms, and serving lunch to their classmates.

Page 321

Ito Hirobumi Ito was Japan's first prime minister. Born in 1841, he was assassinated in 1909. Depicted on the ¥1,000 bill from 1963-1964.

Page 323

Soseki Natsume: The most famous and respected novelist of the Meiji era (1868-1912). Considered to be "Japan's Charles Dickens." Depicted on the ¥1,000 bill from 1984-2004

Risei: As a way of showing respect for the teacher, Japanese students collectively stand, bow, and resume their seats when their teacher enters or exits the classroom.

Page 354

Regional dialects: Japan has a lot of dialects, but when the Japanese move to the Kanto area (which includes Tokyo), where "standard Japanese" is spoken, they tend to hide or downplay their regional accent in order to fit in (as social pressure dictates), usually only letting loose when speaking casually with friends or relatives from the same area. Standard Japanese is taught in schools and used on TV, as well as for all official matters. This is why Samaru (as a child) considered Yuzuki's affected standard Japanese manner of speech to sound mature and authoritative.

Page 386

"Pun intended": The pun is that the kanji for the author's surname, Sanbe, are the same characters used for the word "sanba," that is, "part three."

ERASED²

KEI SANBE

Translation: Sheldon Drzka
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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